



## KALIHI – PALAMA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 15

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### **MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006 KAPALAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Pro Tem Bernie Young called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. without a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ken Harding, Eric Purcell, Casey Sakai, Tracy Sakai, and Bernie Young.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ken Akamine, Jamie Harvest-Silva, Jesusa Ronne, Irene Takizawa, and Shane Yaw.

**GUESTS:** Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Keoki Miyamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Facilities Maintenance – Mayor’s Representative), Senator Norman Sakamoto, Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 member), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kurt Kawafuchi (Director, State Department of Taxation – Governor’s Representative), Dennis Galolo (Councilmember Cachola’s staff); Capt. Darryl Takkawa, Capt. Carter Davis, Capt. Brett Aweau, and Battalion Chief Jeff Farris (Honolulu Fire Department – HFD); Lt. Robert Green, Sgt. J. Pedro and Officer Killum (Honolulu Police Department – HPD); Eddie Pedro, Wayne Rhoden, Curt Cottrell, Reed Shimabukuro, Li Cobian, Mark Ely, Mike Uslan, Sue Berg (Senator Chun Oakland’s staff), Bev Ho (Representative Ching’s staff), Jake Manendeg (Representative Abinsay’s staff), Kauai Hilo (Board of Water Supply – BWS), Lorraine Robinson (TJ Mahoney & Associates), Elwin Spray (Neighborhood Commission office staff).

**DEFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:** Chair Young announced that agenda items requiring votes have to be deferred until there is the required quorum of 10 members present out of the total of 19 seats.

**ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES (TWO VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 1, THREE VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 2 AND TWO VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICT 3)** – Chair Young deferred the item due to the absence of a voting quorum.

**RESIDENTS’ CONCERNS** – Chair Young asked for general concern issues from the community:

1. Parking of commercial vehicles, especially on Hau Street, was reported on by Dennis Galolo from Councilmember Cachola’s staff. He referenced the issue from a prior meeting and reported that industrial area restrictions apply in this case, with the requirement that a bus, van or a truck – any of which having a weight of over 10,000 pounds – must not be parked on the roadway for more than four hours at a time. He reported that the area needs to be monitored by HPD and that he would continue to investigate. Chair Young mentioned a prior instance of area parking problems being referred to the Neighborhood Justice Center for mediation but asked HPD officers present to assist with the parking issue.
2. Homeless residents were referenced by Jake Manendeg from Representative Abinsay’s staff, who reported success in cooperative efforts in the Iwilei Road and Nimitz Highway area but said that the community’s under-the-bridge population is increasing.
3. A Kalihi-Palama Community Council (K-PCC) meeting was announced by Lorraine Robinson of TJ Mahoney at noon on March 2, 2006 and that those to attend needed to call their planned attendance in to the YMCA as soon as possible. Chair Young commented that Robinson has been asked to serve as the incoming K-PCC president.
4. Homeless and noise issues were reported on by Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 member), referring to Kapalama homeless at the Olomea Street bridge and noise concerns at 935 North King Street (near Hikina Street and Kokea Street). He requested monitoring by HPD and more frequent patrols. Chair Young asked about a recent fire under the Olomea bridge and reported that homeless have again taken up residence there, causing concern to adjacent area residents who point to homeless as



- suspected major contributors to community crime; HPD Sgt. Pedro reported that the bridge living area under Olomea Street and the H-1 Freeway was not accessible to HPD and that they must have access assistance from HFD. Pedro also noted a recent rape case reported under the bridge.
5. Representative Abinsay's legislative report was given by Jake Manendeg who referred to a written report and mentioned House Bill (HB) 2175 (on energy), HB 2176 (on housing), HBs 2178 and 3070 (on bonds for agricultural processing plant) and HB 2183 (on emergency shelters). Manendeg reported that Abinsay would hold the two bills on agricultural processing plant bonds in the Agriculture Committee. A bill relating to language access (HB 2778) was discussed as needed in order to lessen limitations on access to government programs and assistance due to language barriers, which Manendeg explained would include helping immigrants in filling out of financial assistance forms. Chair Young asked why the need for help now and about the source of funding; Manendeg said there was a concern that it was a federal mandate due to other federal funds received. Purcell said that the legislative need was to establish literacy, referring to his poll site experience where many voters were unable to read or write which meant they were not knowledgeable when voting on candidates or constitutional amendment issues. Miyamoto announced that Manendeg was honored by City Council for his 40-year service as leader in United Filipino Council, where Manendeg served two terms as president and wrote the bylaws.
  6. Abandoned cars in the Palama area were reported on by a member of the audience, citing Lao Lane on the side of Likelike Elementary School, and asked if fines should be increased to prevent abandonment; Pedro reported that the high concentration of residents in the urban area was the cause and that residents should act to call in abandoned vehicles, since several days are required to identify the abandonment.

#### **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD)** – Sgt. Pedro reported that the prior meeting's report of fighting at the Kamehameha Park field had been followed up by HPD (especially the day watch) and that there had been no recent fights. Pedro also reported that prior concerns of abandoned vehicles had been addressed. Officer Killum reported statistics for the Diamond Head side of Kalihi-Palama. Chair Young asked about camping at Aala Park, where tents are erected at 10:00 a.m. and where there is a problem with too rapid and too abrupt closure at the end of the day. Officer Killum reported that the 9:00 p.m. closure is generally an hour earlier than other parks but that no tenting is done overnight; she will relay the concern about tents being put up during the day.

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD)** – Battalion Chief Jeff Farris introduced himself and Capt. Darryl Takkawa, Capt. Carter Davis, and Capt. Brett Aweau.

Takkawa reported the following combined statistics for the January, 2006 period: 31 fire emergency calls, 102 medical emergencies, 5 hazard condition calls, 5 service calls and 6 'good intent' calls. Dell inquired about the changing mission from fire emergencies to medical emergencies and asked if the budget has kept up to reflect the new needs; Farris reported that the Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) budget is not finished but that the mission continues to be to save lives, although it's correct that the emergencies have flipped from being 66% fires and 34% medical to the reverse of 34% fire and 66% medical. Dell asked if there is a shortage of units when town units are pulled to respond to country brush fires; Farris said units are rotated to cover emergencies and that to reduce response times from getting longer, a system exists to recall off-duty personnel. Dell also asked about sea rescue; Farris reported that the issue is addressed in the budget and has been proactively allowed for with currently nine HFD rescue watercrafts.

Aweau reported the monthly Fire Safety Tip: Every home should have a WORKING smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned four (4) to 12 inches below the ceiling and away from air vents. Dell suggested that the department should aggressively use Public Service Announcements (PSA) to advocate fire safety issues. Farris explained that PSAs incur advertising expenses that the department

does not have the funding for; Dell asked that the need, especially for commercial inspections, be stressed.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS)** – BWS staff member Kauai Hilo reported on the following for the Kalihi Palama area:

1. A 2006 Water Conservation Week Poster Contest for all Oahu students is being held with a submittal deadline of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Details are at: [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).
2. March 5-11 is Detect-A-Leak Week with leak detection dye tablets for toilets available.
3. Water Savings Tip: Not turning off the water as you brush your teeth can use as much as four gallons of water each time!

**COMMERCIAL IRRADIATION** – HFD Capt. Carter Davis, who is one of the City's hazardous materials (hazmat) unit captains, was available to give information on prior meetings' discussion of a proposed commercial agriculture irradiation facility. Chair Young reported that the plan was to use Cobalt 60, the most dangerous version of the element, to irradiate papaya for export, which meant the community was at risk if the Cobalt was used as the center of a "dirty" nuclear bomb or if a hijacked plane were to be crashed into the facility. Carter reported that the use of the cobalt was licensed by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) – not by a City or State agency – and that they define the safety procedures and then the proposal goes to the City's Building Permits section for the structure. Dell asked about safety errors; Davis said that he has personally visited other communities as part of extensive training done by HFD and that the general consensus of the emergency management community, including police and fire officials, is that there are many safeguards and that other toxic materials are of more concern. He noted that the normal NRC design is for an irradiation facility is well constructed – with a 6-foot wall – under NRC design, and that HFD has radiation equipment and is continuing to train. Chair Young stressed that the facility would be too near to schools, housing, military bases, tsunami zone and the ocean and said that we live in dangerous times with risks of terrorist actions and that we should not permit the facility to be built. Dell said that as an old Oak Ridge employee he is aware that there are several facilities that are using the technology now, including at the University of Hawaii (UH); Carter agreed. Dell said a UH facility was closed because it was too dangerous and yet "red labels" are in Hickam, Pearl Harbor and up and down the waterfront. Dell asked if HFD can handle; Carter said HFD is well-trained but asked if anyone can arrogantly say they can handle 100% but that the HFD have a response system and are well-prepared. Purcell asked about concern since there many current uses of nuclear material; Chair Young stressed the location of material near the community.

**MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE** – Keoki Miyamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Facilities Maintenance) distributed the Mayor's report and highlighted that Mayor Hannemann was stressing community commitment to waste management and recycling in order to achieve the short-term goal to cut down on landfill use, reporting the curb side collection of green waste through those areas that already have the City's blue containers. Dell asked about community members receiving recycling money back; Miyamoto said that recycling for cash is a State project, not a City project.

**BOARD RECESS:** Chair Young declared a recess at 8:00 p.m. for refreshments, subject to call of the chair; Chair Young reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**PRESENTATION: SAND ISLAND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK PROJECT** – Reed Shimabukuro introduced himself as speaking for a community group of exploring the possibility of establishing two off-highway recreation tracks on the 35 to 40 acres of Sand Island closest to the airport. The off-road vehicles and motorbikes would be in a controlled environment as opposed to the free-range opportunity on the North Shore. Shimabukuro introduced the manager of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) trail program (Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Program), Curt Cottrell, who explained that the DLNR controls the land, that this could be an acceptable use, that the State has federal funds for urban forestry and recreation – although the idea is being developed as a grant and as a non-State funded project – and that this is at the very beginning of developing the idea, which would be done as a lease from the State to the group. Cottrell said that his program's charge is to protect the watershed, to protect native wildlife and to provide for public recreation. He said that more users are involved in motorcycles, jet skis and motorized four-wheel recreation vehicles

and those available sites are limited; DLNR is concerned with how to regulate use and monitor impact. The project would necessitate improvements to the seaward berms.

Shimabukuro discussed overcrowding at the Kahuku site and the need for a teaching environment, with the commitment for participation by the YMCA (who are involved in similar projects in California) and that the site could be open seven days per week. Harding characterized the project as a great concept and asked about fishermen's comments; Shimabukuro said the Neighborhood Board was the starting point. Dell asked about expanding the project into a car raceway; Shimabukuro said the size was too small, as well as Cottrell explaining that it was still a State park and that a car racetrack would not be considered a park use. Shimabukuro added that of the 40 acres, one third would be for parking, with the rest to include the track, the peewee track, first aid and concessions.

Chair Young asked if there were any objections to the project from the audience or the Board Members present; there were none.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 16, APRIL 20, MAY 18, JUNE 15, JULY 20, AUGUST 17, SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, NOVEMBER 16 2005 and JANUARY 18, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – Chair Young deferred the item due to lack of quorum.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2005 AND JANUARY 2006 TREASURER'S REPORTS** – Chair Young deferred the item due to lack of quorum.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Chair Young deferred the items of Aala Park Skating Rink and Earth Justice.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chair Young deferred the items of Tesoro Tanks at Sand Island Presentation by Chester Koga and discussion regarding absences and quorum (for Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board). She noted that the new Sand Island Tesoro tanks were approved in December 2005, that an after-the-fact presentation has been made by Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board Member Koga at his Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board meeting in January 2006, but that no presentation has been made to the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board, which is where the construction and the facility is to be located. She explained that she has received comments and community members' concerns about the concentration of the large numbers of tanks on Sand Island, all of which are alongside of the ocean's danger zone for tsunamis and hurricanes, as well as under the flight path and, in some weather conditions, would allow fumes from burning storage tanks to envelope the entire residential swath of downtown Honolulu. She noted that since she had received no contact from Tesoro, that the corporation perhaps feels that the presentation is not necessary. She also expressed the need for members to attend the Board meetings but said that without a quorum, the absences and quorum issue should be deferred.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:** Chair Young noted that elected officials are invited to participate based on the rule of three minutes per speaker (strictly enforced) and that a short written report is appreciated.

**GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE** – Kurt Kawafuchi (Director, State Department of Taxation) represented Governor Lingle and discussed the following: 1) State revenues are estimated to be very strong at 12.2 % above last year. 2) Community members are encouraged to file taxes electronically. 3) Taxation help line telephone hours have been expanded to 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 4) Several proposals for tax relief are before the legislature from the administration. 5) Three quarters of a million taxpayers will have a refund of \$500 or more. 6) A proposal is to expand the tax bracket for future years.

**COUNCILMEMBER ROMY CACHOLA** – Dennis Galolo distributed Councilmember Cachola's monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. Elena Lao has left the Councilmember's staff and is now a committee clerk for the City Clerk's Office.
2. Elisa Agpaoa is a new staff member.
3. Homeless complaint in Iwilei and Nimitz: Councilmember Cachola expressed mahalos to the HPD and the State Department of Transportation for their joint efforts in removing habitations built along the low cement wall makai of senior housing project in Iwilei.

4. North King Street Improvement Project is scheduled to be completed by late February 2006.
5. "Weed and Seed" funding is being proposed in the legislature. Supporters of the project are urged to consider testifying in support of the funding bill, Senate Bill 650.

Harding expressed appreciation for Galolo's coordination in past efforts and said that community-wide crosswalk maintenance (remarking or restripping) needs to be a project for the next several months. Chair Young suggested identifying the needed crosswalks and calling directly to Miyamoto, explaining that he always has them taken care of; Galolo said that he'd list needed repairs as community visits are done.

**SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO** – Senator Sakamoto reported \$285,000,000 identified as possibly being returned to taxpayers but explained that many suggestions are being made that the funds be used to repair schools, noting that the Board of Education is looking at a three-year repair effort. He expressed concern that new construction is needed but that maintenance of older schools has not kept up with the need. He also said school programs need additional funds to lower student-teacher ratios in the area of librarians, arts, gifted students and counselors. He discussed the irradiation project, pointing out that questions still remain unanswered; Chair Young suggested a sample question includes project use of water and its discharge, as well as being too close to the military bases. Harding asked about proposed senate legislation to improve schools for disaster readiness; Sakamoto said the bill was referred jointly, including the education committee, since it dealt with school buildings, explaining that the funds are to improve schools to withstand 100 mile-per-hour winds and provide adequate anticipated shelter space.

Chair Young acknowledged Pat Lee, consultant with Parsons Brinkerhoff on the proposed mass transit corridor selection process, and asked if he would like to be added to this or a future agenda; Lee referenced handouts at the back table and said he was available if anyone had questions.

**SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM** – Chair Young noted that the Senator's report was available.

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND** – Sue Berg represented Senator Oakland and distributed her report, a report on current legislation proposals and a report on irradiation. Berg and Robinson repeated the invitation to attend a meeting coordinated by Oakland and the Kalihi-Palama Community Council on disaster preparedness and voter registration, March 2, 2006 at noon at the Kalihi YMCA. She was available for questions. Harding reported that he is involved in disaster readiness and welcomed the planned meeting.

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Senator Trimble reported that the previously discussed tax surplus will be distributed as pay raises for the HGEA union members, although he feels there are education and higher education needs. He reported that the standard deduction has not been raised for 20 years and is too low. He distributed a written legislative report and a flyer, which featured a fund-raising project for the Waikiki Community Center, with his offer to assist area community groups in their fund raising projects.

**REPRESENTATIVE JUN ABINSAY** – Chair Young noted that Representative Abinsay's report had been distributed earlier in the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN** – No representative was present.

**REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING** – Beverly Ho represented Representative Ching and stressed that history preservation year would be recognized by a joint museum display at the capital, that an "I Love Liliha" event was tentatively planned for August 26, 2006 at Kawananakoa Middle School and that a flyer was available on legislation. She distributed a report and was available for questions.

**REPRESENTATIVE LYNN FINNEGAN:** No representative was present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Young reported that other Neighborhood Boards are offering criticism of the Kalihi-Palama Board for not having members turn out to the meeting, including the agenda item of

Tesoro, although the tankers are going into Sand Island, not docking in other Board's areas. She noted that no one was asking the other boards to deal with Kalihi-Palama area issues. She encouraged other members to attend future meetings and for changes to be made to the Neighborhood Plan to allow for possible corrective action to attendance problems that might occur in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Elwin Spray, Neighborhood Commission Office staff